Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A radio communication method, comprising:

a step in which a first radio communication device sends communication time reservation request information addressed to a second radio communication device, in which a time slot when data will be transmitted to the second radio communication device is written;

a step in which the second radio communication device sends communication time reservation response information, in which notice of reception of the communication time reservation request information is added to the communication time reservation request information;

a step in which a third radio communication device which has received the communication time reservation request information from the first radio communication device or the communication time reservation response information from the second radio communication device or both stores the time slot written in the communication time reservation request information or the communication time reservation response information as a transmission prohibited time ~~slot; and~~slot;

a step in which the third radio communication device decides upon a time slot in which its own transmission and reception are possible, based on the stored transmission prohibited time slots; and

a step in which a fourth radio communication device sends reservation request information to the third radio communication device, wherein the third radio communication device sends reservation response information to the fourth radio communication device for:

1) confirming the reservation request if the time slot is not prohibited,

2) rejecting the reservation request if the time slot is prohibited.

2. (Original) The radio communication method according to claim 1, wherein the third radio communication device prohibits transmission in all time slots written in the stored communication time reservation request information or the communication time reservation response information.

3. (Previously Presented) The radio communication method according to claim 1, wherein notice of the time slot is given in the form of a data-transmission start time and a data-transmission dedicated time.

4. (Original) The radio communication method according to claim 1, wherein the first radio communication device transmits a communication request signal RTS including communication time reservation request information and the second radio communication device transmits a communication confirmation signal CTS including communication time reservation response information.

5. (Original) The radio communication method according to claim 2, wherein the communication time reservation request information and the communication time reservation response information also includes the channel used for communication, in which even when the time slot of data transmission recorded in the communication prohibition table is the same, the communication time reservation request and the data transmission are possible if the channel whereby the first radio communication device performs transmission is different from information of communication prohibition table.

6. (Original) The radio communication method according to claim 1, further comprising:

a step in which the first radio communication device transmits data in the time slot of which the second radio communication device has been notified;

a step in which the second radio communication device detects collisions while receiving data;

a step in which the second radio communication device gives notice of the collision to the first radio communication device when the number of collisions is more than or equal to the prescribed number of times; and

a step in which when the first radio communication device receives the notification of collision, it transmits communication time reservation request information addressed to the second radio communication device, in which the time slot for transmitting data is set to be a time slot different from the previous one.

7. (Original) The radio communication method according to claim 1, further comprising:

a step in which the first radio communication device transmits data in the time slot of which the second radio communication device has been notified;

a step in which the second radio communication device detects collisions while receiving data;

a step in which the second radio communication device gives notice of the collision to the first radio communication device when the number of collisions per unit time is more than or equal to a prescribed number of times;

a step in which when the first radio communication device receives the notification of collision, it requests the second radio communication device to give the time slots in which transmission is prohibited or a time slot in which transmission is permitted;

a step in which when the second radio communication device receives the request, it transmits the transmission prohibited time slots or a transmission-permitted time slot to the first radio communication device; and

a step in which the first radio communication device selects a time slot which satisfies the conditions prescribed by the transmission prohibited time slots or the transmission-permitted time slot received from the second radio communication device and notifies the second radio communication device of the time slot as communication time reservation request information.

8. (Original) The radio communication method according to claim 1, further comprising:

a step in which when the first radio communication device transmits the communication time reservation request information to the second radio communication device, the second

radio communication device checks whether the information overlaps with communication time reservation request information received from another radio communication device as a third radio communication device;

a step in which when the second radio communication device detects a collision, it adds information indicating the overlap to the communication time reservation response information;

a step in which the first radio communication device transmits data to the second radio communication device;

a step in which when the first radio communication device detects information indicating an overlap and detects that a response to data is not returned, this constitutes detection of a collision ;

a step in which when the number of collisions per unit time is more than or equal to the prescribed number, the first radio communication device inquires of the second radio communication device regarding the time when the first radio communication device does not collide; and

a step in which the first radio communication device transmits information of communication time reservation in accordance with the notification of the collision-free time slot made in response to the inquiry from the second radio communication device.

9. (Original) The radio communication method according to claim 1, further comprising:

a step in which when the transmission prohibited time slot decided based on communication time reservation request information or communication time reservation response information or both which are not addressed to the second radio communication device overlaps with a time slot in which communication addressed to the second radio communication device is reserved, the second radio communication device forwards communication time reservation request information and communication time reservation response information which are not addressed to it and which are received from that time onward, to radio communication devices in the transmittable area.

10. (Original) The radio communication method according to claim 1, further comprising:

a step in which the first radio communication device transmits data in the time slot of which notice has been given to the second radio communication device;

a step in which the second radio communication device detects collisions while receiving data;

a step in which the second radio communication device gives notice of the collision and of the transmission prohibited time slots or a transmission permitted time slot to the first radio communication device; and

a step in which when the first radio communication device receives the collision notification, it selects a time slot which satisfies the conditions prescribed by the transmission prohibited time slots or the transmission-permitted time slot received from the second radio communication device and gives notice of the time slot satisfying the conditions to the second radio communication device as communication time reservation request information.

11. (Previously Presented) The radio communication method according to claim 6, wherein the second radio communication device detects that there has been a collision when data has not been received in a time slot where the transmission prohibited time slot calculated based on the received communication time reservation request information or the communication time reservation response information or both which are not addressed to it, and the time slot reserved for communication addressed to it overlap.

12. (Original) The radio communication method according to claim 7, wherein when the number of detected collisions is less than the prescribed number, the second radio communication device stops giving notice of its transmission prohibited time slots or its transmission-permitted time slot.

13. (Original) The radio communication method according to claim 7, wherein when the ratio between the transmission prohibited time slot and the transmission-permitted time slot is no more than the prescribed value, the second radio communication device stops giving notice of the transmission prohibited time slot or the transmission-permitted time slot to the first radio communication device.

14. (Currently Amended) A radio communication device, comprising:

a receiving unit receiving radio communication data;

a communication data identification unit identifying the radio communication data including communication time reservation request information in which a time slot when a source radio communication device will transmit data is written, from the received radio communication data;

a communication information analysis unit extracting an identifier of the source radio communication device and the data transmission reservation time slot from the communication time reservation request information of the identified radio communication data,

a communication reservation table in which the communication information analysis unit records the identifier and reservation time slot, associating them with one another, when the destination of the radio communication data is the receiving radio communication device;

a response information generation unit generating communication time reservation response information in which information notifying that there will be proper transmission is added to the communication time reservation request information, wherein the reservation response information:

1) confirms the reservation request if the time slot is not prohibited,

2) rejects the reservation request if the time slot is prohibited; and

a transmitting unit transmitting the generated communication time reservation response information.

15. (Original) The radio communication device according to claim 14, further comprising:

a communication prohibition table in which the communication information analysis unit records the identifier, the reservation time slot and the destination, associating them with one another, when the radio communication device is not the destination of the radio communication data, and

wherein the response information generation unit generates communication time reservation response information to which the notice of communication prohibition is added when the received radio communication data addressed to it requests to reserve communication in a time slot which overlaps with a time slot recorded in the communication prohibition table.

16. (Original) The radio communication device according to claim 15, further comprising:

a communication data generation unit generating transmission data addressed to another radio communication device; and

a communication information generation unit generating communication time reservation request information including a transmission time slot, deciding on a time slot other than time slots recorded in the communication prohibition table as the transmission time slot for transmission of data generated by the communication data generation unit, and

wherein said transmitting unit transmits the communication time reservation request information to a destination radio communication device.

17. (Original) The radio communication device according to claim 16, further comprising:

an event timer, which notifies the communication data generation unit that the transmission time has elapsed when it receives the notification of the transmission time from the communication information generation unit, and

wherein when the communication data generation unit receives the notification, it generates communication data and transmits the data to the destination radio communication device.

18. (Original) The radio communication device according to claim 15, wherein the communication time reservation request information and the communication time reservation response information further includes information of a channel used for communication, and

wherein even when a time slot of data transmission recorded in the communication prohibition table by the communication information analysis unit is the same, the communication time reservation request and data transmission are possible when the channel by which the first radio communication device performs transmission is different from the information of the communication prohibition table.

19. (Previously Presented) The radio communication method according to claim 2, wherein notice of the time slot is given in the form of a data-transmission start time and a data-transmission dedicated time.

20. (Previously Presented) The radio communication method according to claim 7, wherein the second radio communication device detects that there has been a collision when data has not been received in a time slot where the transmission prohibited time slot calculated based on the received communication time reservation request information or the communication time reservation response information or both which are not addressed to it, and the time slot reserved for communication addressed to it overlap.

21. (Previously Presented) The radio communication method according to claim 8, wherein the second radio communication device detects that there has been a collision when data has not been received in a time slot where the transmission prohibited time slot calculated based on the received communication time reservation request information or the communication time reservation response information or both which are not addressed to it, and the time slot reserved for communication addressed to it overlap.

22. (Previously Presented) The radio communication method according to claim 9, wherein the second radio communication device detects that there has been a collision when data has not been received in a time slot where the transmission prohibited time slot calculated based on the received communication time reservation request information or the communication time reservation response information or both which are not addressed to it, and the time slot reserved for communication addressed to it overlap.

23. (Previously Presented) The radio communication method according to claim 10, wherein the second radio communication device detects that there has been a collision when data has not been received in a time slot where the transmission prohibited time slot calculated based on the received communication time reservation request information or the communication time reservation response information or both which are not addressed to it, and the time slot reserved for communication addressed to it overlap.